



### Straight to Hell Guide

Saint At Large conjures a witch's brew of dance floor delights with Junior Vasquez & Peter Rauhofer...

### Fright Nights

Hell is for sinners. And they throw a great party...

### Surrender, Dorothy!

The *Wicked* witches of Oz gear up to celebrate five years on Broadway...and they're here ...

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## Goosebumps from Lula



**Last night a dance diva saved your life? It's probably the legendary Lula**  
By Brandon Voss

With one of the most instantly recognizable voices in the dance music

scene, Lula has captured the ears and hearts of house-hungry clubgoers from the moment she exploded out of the speakers on NYLX's 1998 chart-topper "Goosebumps" to her most recent hit, "There Is Only One" with Alan T. Now slinging singles off her debut album, *The Underground Sounds of Lisbon and Me*, Lula recalls her gay beginnings as an Austrian dance floor denizen reborn as a recording artist at Danny Tenaglia-era Twilo in New York.

**HX: Tell me about your relationship with the gay community when you lived in NYC between 1993 and 2000.**

**Lula:** Well, first of all, as long as I can remember the majority of my friends were gay men. Who could be better friends than my gay male friends? No one. Most straight guys suck. They have yellow teeth. They take a shower only if it is really necessary. Mostly they have no style when it comes to music, movies and fashion... What the hell—they are no good. Mostly not even for the sex part. And I can't really deal with lots of girls either. Anyway, back to your question. In 1994 I won an aerobics competition at the Gay Games in NYC—I have my gold medal right here. Of course, all my fabulous trainers were gay men, and one of them, the wonderful, always happy Jim Shallal, took me to Cafe Con Leche at Sound Factory and to Junior Vasquez at Sound Factory. Jim was a big influence for me. Without him, I would not have started going to these places so often—and I would not have won gold either! Junior taught my ears how music in a club should sound like. And then, of course, Danny Tenaglia when Sound Factory became Twilo. Danny started noticing me when

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I was all over this big, black speaker for hours and hours. Meeting him and hanging out with him was one of the best things that happened to me ever—all the great music he introduced me to, all the great people I met through him. And the fact that he let me get behind the microphone... Without him, I wouldn't have any record out until this day, I believe. Because of Danny, I am Lula now.

**How often do you get back to NYC from Vienna? And since the days of Twilo and other '90s megaclubs are over, does NYC clubland even appeal to you?**

Sadly, I'm not in NYC too often. I still love the city, even though it's changed a lot. I would like to live there again one day. Maybe when my eight-year-old son is bigger. To be honest, I'm really spoiled from these good old nights we had. It's very hard to enjoy the clubs now—not just in NYC, but everywhere I go. The sound systems are not how they used to be. Sometimes I don't even hear a bass—a nightmare! The lights are too bright. It's not about the music and the dancing anymore. Isn't that what a club is for? I see too many after-work yuppies talking and standing around on the dance floor, taking photos with their phones—what is this? I don't get it. There should be rules in a club: no talking, no cameras, no drinks on the dance floor, no bottle service, no velvet booths to sit around. It's called a dance club—so *dance!*

**Tell me about the message of your upcoming single "Last Night A DJ Saved My Life."**

Some DJs have the ability to change our life with their music journeys. Using the artist's lyrics just at the right time, the DJ has the strength to open up doors in our soul we did not know existed. We can get answers, we can see the light, we can find the right way when we are lost right on the dance floor. They can save our life with a song. It's the truth. I am on my knees when a DJ allows me to get a glimpse of his heart and soul.

**One of the locations for your video shoot in L.A. was at the Madonna's Record Release party for *Hard Candy* thanks to a connection at Warner Bros. Did Madonna not mind sharing her spotlight?**

Madonna didn't mind sharing the spotlight at all—because she wasn't there. [*Laughs*] Thank God. I would have never gone on any stage if she had been there, no matter what the director would have told me—neva! The sweet Perry Twins were DJing that night, and the crowd was really great. When the floor heard my track and saw me on stage they went crazy. After my long "baby break," it was the best feeling ever. To still have so many fans, no matter where I go, was an amazing feeling.

### **Do you consider yourself a diva?**

Diva? Me? I don't think so. Well, I don't know... Maybe a little? I don't like to cook; I don't like to clean... I want my photos retouched so that nobody sees my wrinkles. I hate to wait in line to get in a club. I hate not to be on some guest list. I like it when people know me at the door, when I get in for free—not a money issue; just a principle—when I get a VIP pass and when I don't have to get my drinks from the bar myself. What do you call somebody like me? A bitch or a diva? You choose, please—and let me know!

The Underground Sounds of Lisbon and Me (Kult) is out now. For more info, log onto [myspace.com/lulainthespeaker](http://myspace.com/lulainthespeaker).

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### **Dance Floor Flashback**

Why you should know Twilo

If you're a youngin' just discovering Lula, you may not get why she pays homage to the club Twilo on her latest single, "Twilo." "I'm specifically talking about Sunday mornings at Twilo," she explains, referring to the 530 West 27th Street space—formerly Sound Factory—that closed in 2001. "It was the most perfect place of them all. The sound system was to die for with the big, black speakers right next to our bodies; we could feel every sound, every beat in our hearts and souls, and coming right at us from the DJ booth was Danny Tenaglia doing his magic. These were the best nights of my life—filled with friends, laughter, love and tears. We let all our emotions out right there on the dance floor. We were all a big family. Thank God I had the privilege to be there every weekend. We all lived for it. It was our heaven, our paradise."

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